

District of Columbia Commission on Climate Change & Resiliency
Response to 2023 Performance Oversight Pre-Hearing Questions

1. Please provide a list of the Commission’s current members and note any existing vacancies. For each member, please provide the following:

- a. The member’s name.
- b. The agency or organization the member represents.
- c. Who appointed the member.
- d. When the member’s term expires.
- e. Attendance record.

See attachment.

2. Please provide a list of the Commission’s meeting dates, times, and locations for FY 2022 and FY 2023, to date.

Quarterly Meeting	December 9, 2021, 3:00-5:30 (virtual)
Knowledge Forum	January 8, 2022, 9-3pm (virtual)
Quarterly Meeting	March 10, 2022, 3:00-5:30 (virtual)
Quarterly Meeting	June 9, 2022, 3:00-5:30 (virtual)
Draft Report Review	September 8, 2022, 3:00-5:30 (virtual)
Quarterly Meeting	December 8, 2022, 3:00-5:30 (hybrid)
Strategy Retreat	January 20, 2023, 9:00AM-12:00PM (virtual)

3. Did the Commission receive funds in FY 2022? If so, please provide the following:

- a. The amount of the funding.

\$14,000

- b. The source of the funding.

DOEE FY22 Budget (Local Funds)

- c. A list of all expenditures.

Design and publication of DC-CCCR website (climatecommission.dc.gov) with ongoing technical support from OCTO.

- d. A description of how these funds furthered the Commission’s mission.

The website provides an accessible source to provide background information, meeting information and publish the Climate Commission’s report and testimony. The website provides a platform for growing public presence on issues associated with climate change in the District of Columbia.

4. Please describe the Commission’s activities in FY 2022.

The Commission fulfilled its legislative mandate to conduct quarterly public meetings, which featured invited experts and agency staff to present and discuss ongoing work and best practices to mitigate and prepare for impacts of climate change.

In addition to the legislatively required quarterly meetings, the Climate Commission formed subcommittees to review documents and research in support of drafting the Second Report. In the report drafting and distribution process, members of the Climate Commission met with District agency staff, including H-SEMA, DC Water, DDOT, DOEE, and DMOI.

The Climate Commission also engaged with the Public Service Commission, the DC Flood Task Force, and the Construction Codes Coordinating Board by providing written letters and comments in response to open calls for public comment.

5. Please describe the Commission’s three biggest accomplishments in FY 2022.

During FY 2022, the Climate Commission onboarded its first dedicated staff position with DOEE. With a single dedicated full-time staff member, the Climate Commission was able to advance its work and engage stakeholders more directly and more regularly. Key accomplishments:

- **Commission’s Second Report (October, 2022)**
- **Organizing and Hosting the DC Climate Knowledge Forum (January 2022)**
- **Participation in DC Flood Task Force (2022-Ongoing)**

6. Did the Commission achieve each of its goals for FY 2022? If not, why not?

The Climate Commission achieved its primary goal of drafting and disseminating its Second Report (delivered every three years) for the Mayor and the Council. The report was published on our website and transmitted in November 2022.

7. Please describe the Commission’s goals for FY 2023 and the plan and timeline for completion.

The Climate Commission’s FY2023 goals are to:

- **Continue to brief stakeholders and disseminate its Second Report;**
- **Continue to participate in the Flood Task Force;**
- **Use our Quarterly Meetings to provide on-board feedback to agencies and stakeholders;**

- **Track the District’s legislative and agency progress in support of the recommendations contained within the Second Report;**
- **Explore the formation of a DC Youth Council on Climate Change.**

8. What challenges, if any, has the Commission faced in FY 2023, to date? What challenges, if any, does the Commission anticipate facing in the rest of FY 2023?

The Climate Commission’s primary challenges are:

- **Insufficient staff support;**
- **Delays in filling our staff vacancy;**
- **Weak reporting requirements in our enabling legislation;**
- **Lack of capacity to meaningfully respond to requests for public comment in the public process associated with legislative and regulatory bodies.**

9. Please provide a copy of all official correspondence sent by the Commission in FY 2022 and FY 2023, to date.

- **Letter to Mayor and Council transmitting 2022 Report**
- **Letter to DC Flood Task Force (2)**
- **Letter to Construction Code Coordinating Board**
- **Letter to Public Service Commission**

10. Please identify the Commission’s top recommendations for addressing climate change and resilience in FY 2023.

The Commission published its Second Report to the Mayor and Council which includes 11 recommendations, each accompanied by more detailed sub-recommendations:

- 1. Phase out fossil gas for commercial and residential buildings.**
- 2. Increase proliferation of renewable energy on the electricity grid.**
- 3. Advance the efficiency and electrification of the transportation system.**
- 4. Establish greater accountability and integrated coordination on climate actions.**
- 5. Better incorporate flood preparedness in standard practices.**
- 6. Mitigate the impacts of extreme heat.**
- 7. Advance resilience and preparedness for residents and businesses.**
- 8. Expand public communications and education programs.**
- 9. Establish resilience hubs across the District with community-based leadership.**
- 10. Expand workforce development for a green economy.**
- 11. Foster new partnerships in technology and innovation.**

11. How has the ongoing pandemic impacted the operations of the Commission during FY 2022 and FY 2023, to date? How does the Commission intend to mitigate these effects moving forward? Please provide an overview of any initiatives that the

Commission started in response to the pandemic that have been incorporated into the Commission's permanent operations.

The Climate Commission has operated virtually since March 2020. In FY 2022, the Climate Commission began offering hybrid meetings to reintroduce in-person discussions with flexibility for attendees unable or uncomfortable doing so. The Commission did not suspend any of its activities during the health emergency.

12. Please provide the status of efforts to hire a staff member to support the Commission.

DOEE hired the first full time staff executive to the Climate Commission in February 2022, which led to increased productivity and capacity. This staff position is now vacant and DOEE has commenced recruiting candidates for this position.

Previously, DOEE took 5 months to fill the position, so the Commission is likely to be without staff for the majority of this year. DOEE is currently providing ad hoc staff support to the Commission at roughly 0.125 FTE.

The Commission is desperate for additional support and will likely be forced to seek unpaid interns in the interim.

13. The Commission issued its second report in November 2022.

a. What are the major takeaways of this report?

- **The District is a global leader in innovating new climate policies; but with an appropriately aggressive legislated goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2045, and with global emissions growing (not declining), much work needs to be done to protect District residents from the impacts of climate change.**
- **Social equity is the throughline through all climate change actions and impacts.**
- **The District's infrastructure (including utility infrastructure) must be evaluated in a long-term, dynamic context. Infrastructure-related risks can produce profound social risks which need to be mitigated over long-term periods.**
- **Our local climate and environmental conditions in the District are inextricably linked to regional, national and global actions and must be iteratively assessed and scientifically modeled in order to protect District residents.**
- **The changes we need to make in the District associated with climate change can be thought of as a generational invitation to develop greater social equity and resilience in our communities and an associated "all hands on deck" attitude must be inclusive of all residents, businesses and communities.**

b. What work has the Commission done to engage agencies on the recommendations outlined in the report? Has the Commission been able to track whether and how other agencies have adopted and

incorporated the Commission's recommendations into their activities?

The Climate Commission has proactively engaged with agencies through quarterly meeting updates, presentations, and consultation meetings. Although the 2022 Report was only recently released, we have heard feedback and affirmation from agency partners about the direction of climate action.

The Climate Commission will use its quarterly meetings to discuss updates to District initiatives related to its recommendations and associated action items. The Commission also plans to stay actively involved in District planning process, like the DOEE Clean Energy DC 2.0 process and ongoing cases at the Public Service Commission, to more concretely communicate the recommendations from the Report to decision makers and stakeholders.

- c. Has the Commission received any inquiries from agencies—in particular, agencies involved in economic development activities, like the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development—about the Commission's recommendations or asking for input on the agency's activities?

The Climate Commission recently had a productive meeting with the Deputy Mayor of Operations and Infrastructure Lucinda Babers on the 2022 Report recommendations.

The Chair of the Climate Commission has provided direct input to the Mayor's recently released 5-Year Economic Strategy which was produced by DMPED. The primary focus of this interaction was regarding the future of the downtown and the concentration of commercial real estate which represents the single largest concentration of greenhouse gas emissions in the District.

- d. How does the Commission anticipate monitoring agency progress and compliance with the report recommendations?

The Climate Commission will use the organizational structure of the Second Report to monitor agency progress. However, without staff, our data collection efforts will be limited to the testimony and presentations we can marshal in our quarterly meetings.